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United Nations Forum on Forests
Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests
New York, 7-10 September 2004

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the Chairpersons.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Tasks of the Expert Group:
   (a) Analyse complementarities, gaps and duplications and review the relevant experience of existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests;
   (b) Consider other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests, inter alia, the efforts of countries to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action;
   (c) Prepare for the United Nations Forum on Forests at its fifth session a balanced range of options for consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

The Coordinator and head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will open the meeting.

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2. Election of the Chairpersons

The Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests may wish to elect two Co-Chairpersons, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2003/299, in which the Council established the Expert Group and stated that two Co-Chairpersons should be elected from among the experts at its meeting, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In order to facilitate the work of the Expert Group, the provisional agenda and the draft organization of work of the meeting are tabled for consideration.

The Expert Group may wish to consider and adopt its agenda and organization of work. It may also wish to elect a Rapporteur and establish a drafting group or groups to assist the Co-Chairpersons in preparing its draft report.

4. Tasks of the Expert Group

Overall, in carrying out its tasks, the Expert Group should take into account task 33 (b) of its terms of reference as contained in Council decision 2003/299, in which the Council requested the Expert Group to consider reports prepared by member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Forum secretariat, as well as outcomes of the sessions of the Forum.

(a) Analyse complementarities, gaps and duplications and review the relevant experience of existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests

This sub-item would address tasks 33 (a) and (d) of the terms of reference of the Expert Group. The analysis should take into account Forum resolution 2/3[1] on specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, and the review should include relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes.

(b) Consider other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests, inter alia, the efforts of countries to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action

This sub-item would address task 33 (c) of the terms of reference of the Expert Group. Its consideration could also include the work of other expert groups, country- and organization-led initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests and previous relevant initiatives, and forest-related work undertaken by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

(c) Prepare for the United Nations Forum on Forests at its fifth session a balanced range of options for consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests

This sub-item would address task 33 (e) of the terms of reference of the Expert Group. This balanced range of options for the consideration of the fifth session of

the Forum should include detailed descriptions of the options, including their legal, financial and institutional modalities.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests (E/CN.18/AC.3/2004/2)

Note by the Secretariat on catalysts and obstacles in implementing the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/AC.3/2004/3)

Background paper containing a compilation of views submitted by member States and information provided by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). (E/CN.18/AC.3/2004/CRP.1)

Background document on existing international and regional binding and non-binding instruments, processes and organizations relevant to forests (E/CN.18/AC.3/2004/CRP.2)

5. Other matters

The Expert Group may wish to discuss other related matters.

6. Adoption of the report

In its decision 2003/299, the Council stated that the proposals and recommendations of the Expert Group should be provided by consensus, and that in the absence of consensus the report should fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

In the same decision, the Council stated that the Expert Group should prepare its report taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and should submit the report to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its fifth session for consideration. The report should specify the major outcomes of the Expert Group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 22* (E/2002/42), chap. II.B.